

However, there lacks sufficient oversight tools to monitor how Federal transportation money is being spent at the State and local levels. More than 80 percent of comparative studies have found that contracting-out engineering, design and inspection costs of transportation projects cost more than doing this work in-house. The taxpayers could have saved some money and gotten a similar quality if state and local engineers handled the projects.

Furthermore, skilled and dedicated professionals have been leaving State and local governments for private sector, not only because salaries are higher and career opportunities are greater, but it is also because transportation departments have been reducing their staffs, holding down their pay and contracting-out the most interesting work.

Now that the "baby boom" generation of engineers is preparing to retire, State and local transportation departments need to take action to retain existing engineering and technical employees and to recruit skilled and dedicated professionals to take the place of those who are leaving.

Because of the oversight deficiency and an intention to keep professional engineers with the State and local transportation departments, I would like to introduce H.R. 1980, The Safety, Accountability, and Funding Efficiency for Transportation Act of 2003, to encourage State and local agencies that carry out surface transportation projects to conduct a cost-benefit analysis before procuring architectural, engineering and related services from a private contractor.

By conducting the cost-benefit analysis, a State's and the Federal Government agency will be able to determine if using private contractors is cost effective and if it is in the public interest to use a private contractor or in-house resources when procuring such services.

My constituents through National Association of State Highway and Transportation Unions, the AFL-CIO's Department of Professional Employees, AFSCME, Service Employees International Union and the Communications Workers of America, have shown their support for H.R. 1980, Safety, Accountability, and Funding Efficiency for Transportation Act of 2003.

The heart of this bill is to require government agencies to prepare cost benefit analysis for private contracts with a Federal funding value of \$100,000 or more. The analyses must contain the cost comparison of a proposed project if it is done by a private contractor and a government agency.

In my opinion, it is now time to put accountability in utilizing the taxpayers' hard-earned money at State and local levels, especially in spending Federal transportation funds.

THE HONORABLE JOHN J. RHODES

HON. J. D. HAYWORTH

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2003

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, as is the case with so many colleagues past and present, I am honored to have the friendship and good counsel of the distinguished former House Republican Leader, the Honorable

John J. Rhodes of Arizona. It is my personal privilege also to count John Rhodes as a constituent of the Fifth Congressional District of Arizona.

John Rhodes' many contributions to our state, to our nation, and to this institution of representative government are widely documented and recognized, most recently by his deserved selection to be among the first recipient of the congressional Distinguished Service Award last week.

The bestowment of that award inspired many congratulatory expressions about the life and career of John Rhodes.

CONGRATULATING FARRAGUT HIGH SCHOOL, THE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY OF KNOXVILLE AND WEBB SCHOOL OF KNOXVILLE FOR THEIR 2003 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP VICTORIES

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2003

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the student athletes of three Knox County high schools for their recent accomplishments during State Championships. The Farragut Admirals captured the State Title in Class AAA Baseball and Class AAA Boys Soccer while the Christian Academy of Knoxville Warriors won the Boys TSAA Class A-AA Soccer Title and the Webb School of Knoxville Girls Tennis Team took the State Title in Division II Singles and Double categories. I congratulate all the athletes who never gave up and worked tirelessly for these titles. I also congratulate the coaches and parents whose encouragement and instruction made their success possible.

Although no championship season can be easily summarized, I believe these impressive teams have earned specific mention here on the Floor of the House of Representatives.

For the previous three years, the Farragut High School Baseball team had ended their season as the State runners-up, but the 2003 season ended with more than just a well-deserved State AAA Championship. They also set a remarkable new State record with an unprecedented 48-1 season leaving them ranked 4th in the entire Nation. This is truly a remarkable program and I look forward to hearing of many future victories.

The Tennessee AAA Boys High School Soccer Championship game pitted two outstanding Knox County schools against each other when the Farragut Admirals faced off against the Bearden Bulldogs. The skill, intensity and determination of both teams were clearly evident throughout the game. It was Farragut, however, that in double overtime took the championship with a 3-1 victory. Both schools set a new standard for AAA Soccer in Knox County and I commend each of these fine athletes.

For the Christian Academy of Knoxville Boys Soccer team, earning the Tennessee Secondary School Association's (TSAA) State Championship title was a milestone in the school's athletic program and a testimony to each player's commitment to excellence. Their 1-0 victory over Chattanooga Christian School was the culmination of a hard fought season

where the Warriors finished 17-2-3. This may have been the school's first State championship in soccer, but I am confident it will not be their last.

I also want to congratulate Webb School of Knoxville's State Division II tennis champions Whitney Chappell, Elizabeth Gooze and Berkeley Brock for their victories. Whitney's Singles Championship match took over three hours and was a remarkable demonstration of both skill and stamina. Elizabeth and Berkeley defeated a doubles team from St. Mary's in just two sets, and showed the same level of excellence and determination as their Single's teammate Whitney. Each of these young ladies has raised an already high standard of excellence in athletics at Webb School.

Regardless of the sport, high school athletics provide a tremendous opportunity for our young people to learn and enhance their leadership abilities while also learning the value of teamwork. These young people, along with their peer athletes from other schools, will gain far more than trophies for their efforts. Their dedication to excellence will prepare them for every challenge they will face in the future and their commitment to both physical and mental excellence will serve them well their entire lives.

With or without championship victories, we congratulate every student athlete for their efforts to improve themselves. Every parent, teacher and coach is proud of these young people's hard work and commitment.

Finally, I also want to congratulate those students who commit themselves to excellence in areas off the athletic field. Regardless of the student's interest or skill, if he or she strives to reach beyond what is required, I am sure every Member of this body joins me in saying that we are proud of them and we wish them the absolute best in all they set out to achieve.

THE FOREIGN AID LIMITATION ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2003

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the Foreign Aid Limitation Act. This bill limits the ability of the Executive Branch to use the Exchange Stabilization Fund (ESF) to distribute largesse to foreign countries without the approval of Congress.

The Foreign Aid Limitation Act prohibits the Secretary of the Treasury from using the ESF to make a loan or extend credit to any foreign government or entity for an amount exceeding \$250,000,000. The bill also forbids the ESF from being used to finance a loan or to extend credit, to any foreign government or entity for a period exceeding 60 days. The 60-day limitation can be waived if the President certifies in writing to the Chair and ranking members of the relevant House and Senate Committees that the United States obtained an assured source of repayment before making the loan or extending the credit. Finally, the bill prohibits the use of the ESF to make loans or extend credit in an amount exceeding \$1,000,000,000 to a foreign government or entity without express statutory authorization. This provision can also be waived if the President certifies in writing to the heads of the relevant committees that the loan is necessary to